



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Wasatch County Issues Public Health Directive Implementing State of Utah's Phased Guidelines**

Wasatch County, Utah, April 30, 2020 - Wasatch County Health Officer, Randall Probst, and County Manager, Mike Davis issue a directive to follow the Governor's new Executive Order. This Order adopts the "Phased Guidelines for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation."

According to Randall Probst, Health Officer, the phased guidelines provide rules which will help organizations and the general public open things back up in a much safer manner than simply going back to "business as usual."

While these guidelines will relax many of the restrictions that have been in place since April 1, Wasatch County businesses and residents are reminded to be vigilant in practicing the guidelines set forth in the "moderate risk" category. Some examples of these changes include the following: restaurants can offer limited dine in services but take out is still encouraged; fitness centers and salons can open under strict protocols. In addition, employees will be required to wear masks when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain and symptoms of illness will be checked at the beginning of each shift to reduce spreading of the virus.

The general public will be expected to follow guidelines as well. In-person interactions are limited to individual households and those who have been following recommended distancing and hygiene guidelines. Social interactions are limited to groups of 20 or fewer.

However, there are still strict guidelines for those individuals with underlying health problems and those who are over age 60. "We want to remind everyone that there are many people in our community who are still vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19" said Chris Smoot, Epidemiologist for Wasatch County Health Department. Although some restrictions on businesses and individuals have eased with the new orders, these high-risk individuals should continue the precautions outlined in the guidelines, such as wearing face covering at all times in public, limiting travel to only essential travel, limiting visits with friends and family, and limiting attendance at any gatherings outside their homes.

Face coverings, such as a mask, scarf, gaiter or bandana, have been identified by the CDC as an effective means to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "Please, when you are in public wear a mask," says Wasatch County Emergency Manager, Jeremy Hales. "Doing so will help protect you and others and keep Wasatch healthy and safe." Individuals should stay six feet away from others even when wearing a face covering.

"For Wasatch County to be successful, we need every individual as well as the businesses to be vigilant in following these guidelines," said Probst. "In doing so, it will help us move forward and avoid having to return to more restrictions."

This directive becomes effective May 1, 2020 at 12:01 am and rescinds the current public health order dated April 21, 2020. Anyone with questions about this directive can contact the call center at 435-657-3276 or visit the <https://coronavirus.wasatch.utah.gov> website for information and updates about COVID-19 in Wasatch County.

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